CHICAGO TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO TI-99/4A USERS GROUP

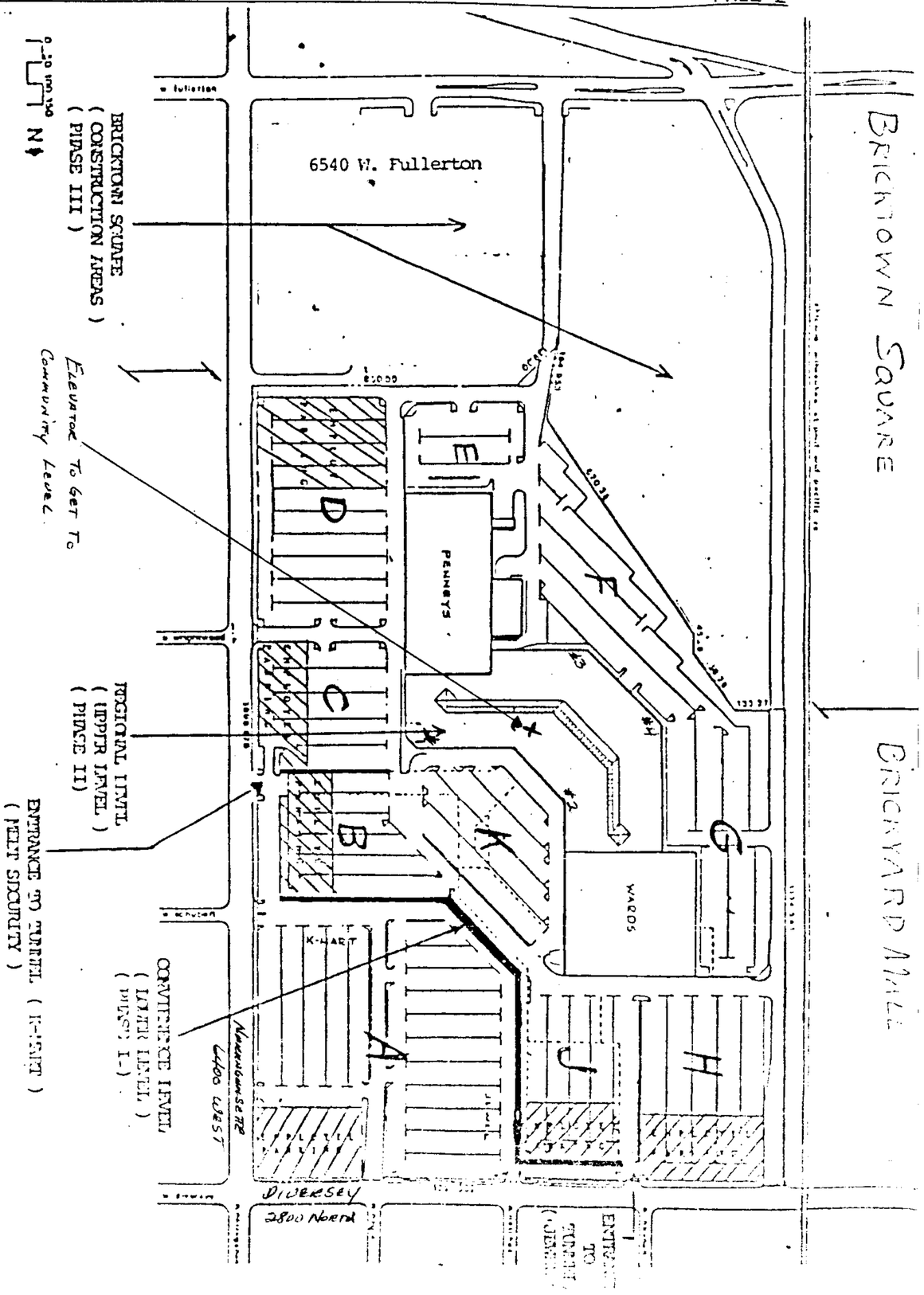
SUMMER ISSUE

SEPT. 1, 1988
EDITOR: Carole Goldstein

THE SEPT MEETING. . . .

will be held on Saturday SEPT 3, 1988 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the BRICKYARD MALL in the Community Room (Lower Level). See map inside front cover for directions.

→YOUR NEWSLETTER IS←
→WHAT YOU MAKE IT←



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Contributing artists: Buzz Krantz, Dan Gronowski, Danny Goldstein and Anne Dhein

BULLETINS:

NEW UG HOT LINE NUMBER IS (312)755-0051.

MEETING DATES FOR THE COMING YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS :

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD
AT THE BRICKYARD MALL THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

The Chicago TImes is published 10 TImes a year, monthly, except during June and July. Chicago TImes is not affiliated with Texas Instruments in any way and is supported only by its subscribers and advertisers. Subscriptions are free with membership in the Chicago TI99/4A User's Group. The Chicago TImes is also distributed free to any other User's Group that wishes to reciprocate. Articles contained herein may be re-printed by another User's Group Publication provided credit is given to the Chicago TImes as the original source of the article. Comments and letters are welcome, as is the submission of original articles and programs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT

COMMUNICATION

As the president of the Chgo User Group, I have noticed may changes in the group in the past year. During the summer months most of the group has been out of touch with each other. Come September we should get all the communications back together once again.

We have experienced a few problem in our out of town membership, due to a misplacement of the mail pickup. Most of the members that were effected were renewels from December 1987 and January 1988. At this time most of the problem has been taken care of. If you have not recieved a answer or any kind of correspondence from us, please address a letter to me,% of Chgo TI User Group, P.O.Box 578341, Chgo,IL 60657. I will give it my utmost attention. We are sorry for the problem and are tring to get everyone taken care of.

To me it looks like this User Group needs to communicate with our membership a little more. We have had problem with our User Group BBS, reliability problems. We have a second BBS now, Chgo User Group BBS#2, the COMPLAINT BOARD, (312)345 4127. It supports TI and 9640 and all are encouraged to call it. This is THE TI-West system, sysop is Nick Iocovelli, author of the TI-West BBS system. Therefore the reliability factor should be very high and there are plas to expand it in the future, hoping to keep the reliability close to 100%.

We are here to support your needs and can only provide what you submit to us, so we need your input and comments on what you would like to see or what you would like to have shown. In the last week or 2 there has been a new release of MDOS,MYWORD,GPL, and the Manager for HFDC for the Myarc 9640. I have never seen so much interest in new files on my BBS before. From some of the comments that are on the system, it sounds like the new file work as stated in the manual. We have John Birdwell in our group, he is a assembly language programmer and has contributed to the software of the HFDC,and has some insight on the HFDC and has been using it for some time now. He has stated "IT REALLY WORKS". So we should have hard drives running on the 9640 very soon. That is one thing that our TIs were missing, now we can do it. My BBS number is (312)453 7831, The Chgo Connection, your comments are welcome.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting of the Chgo TI User Group on September 3rd,at 1:00p at the Brickyard Mall 6401 W.Diversey in the Community Room. The Brickyard is located 6400 West and 2800 North on the corner of Narragansette and Diversey. We will be needing a couple of 19 inch TVs for the DEMO of the HFDC. So if you can bring 1, let me know, leave a message to sysop on BBS, 453 7831 or voice at 453 6872.

LETS COMMUNICATE A LITTLE MORE! Hank Ellermann

From The Welcome Matt: Matt Mullen

Ladies and Germs,

I stand before you, to sit behind you, to tell you something I know nothing about. Last Thursday, on Good Friday, the Men of the Ladies Aid Society gathered individually to discuss mutely...

Wait a minute... This is the wrong copy... Oh, here it is... Hello Sports Fans.. Nope, that isn't it.... That is Don Jones report....

I missed the last meeting because of a death in the family, but I hear that just about everyone else did as well. Funny, they weren't at the funeral.... I had my Van all loaded and I was just about to come when I got a call from Springfield that my Father had died the night before. Needless to say, I had to unpack "Club Stuff" and pack for a trip downstate.

Did you have a good summer? I did! You have heard of a "Busman's Holiday" haven't you? That is where a Bus driver has a vacation and goes on a tour by bus. Well, I had one of those "vacations". As you might know, I take shcool children camping all during the school year. Well, this summer I worked in a Boy Scout Camp doing the same thing. I was the Naturalist for the Hoover Boy Scout Reservation out in Yourkville, Illinois.

The only thing that came to me about the T.I. Users Group of Chicago was another list of names. Yep, the same old thing... Ten more people showed up that had paid in Dec. or Jan. and haven't received a thing. We are working on this and I will do my utmost to see that these people get their back issues and anything else due them. I am also working toward an error free 1989. There were several people involved with getting checks and money and sending same to the Treasurer and/or Membership chairman. When one individual got sick, the whole system went up for grabs. Our President, the Vice President and myself apologize to you wonderful people for the mix-up. Please do not give up on us. We really are trying and the T.I. Computer is still alive and well and "LIVING" in Chicago...

Matt Mullen
Membership Chairman

SOFTWARE REVIEWS

June 1, 1988

JUMPBOOT, a program for the GENEVE

I'd like to recoment a GENEVE loader program that I just bought. The program is JBUBMBPBBBOBOBIB from Disk Only Software, P.O. Box 244, Lorton, VA ZIP Code 22079. Its hard to believe, but this program loads the entire GENEVE MDOS in 7 seconds. That's about one fifth the normal time. This is without any special additions to your ramdisk, if you have one. Dont get me wrong, my ramdisk is great, but with JUMPBOOT I don't need a special DOS chip.

JUMPBOOT reads the loader disk in multiple sectors. The GENEVE allows this. I've ask owners of various IBMs and clones if they have seen a similar program for thier machines. I usually get blank stares. An AT owner wasn't sure that his unit would accept loading in multiple sectors.

To use JUMPBOOT with an AUTOEXEC file on a ramdisk, I had to make one change in the program. I sector edited the SYSTEM/SYS part of the disk. Anyone with a GENEVE and a HORIZON ramdisk is familiar with the process. All references to DSK 4 in ANSII code on the disk were changed to DSK 6. This can be done with the JUMPBOOT disk as well as with the regular MDOS disk. Care must be taken, however as the JUMPBOOT is essentially uncopiable. Copies I've tried to make for myself, even with a sector editor will not work. That's a nice antipirating step, but it eliminates backups.

I hope that a similar fast loader routine can be devised for programs loaded out of MDOS, such as GIF, avanced basic (if it ever shows up), or even high language programs you write yourself. If so, most programs would be loaded faster from floppies than from a loaded rard disk.

As you can see, I recommend that all GENEVE owners purchase at least one copy of JUMPBOOT. At a cost of $15.95 for one, $25.95 for two copies, they won't be disappointed.

Jim Baird #197/88

TI-FAIRE

NOVEMBER 12, 1988

HELD AT:
Holiday Inn
3505 Algonquin Rd.
Rolling Meadows, Il
(312-259-5000)

PRODUCED BY:
Chicago Area TI-99/4a Users' Group
P. O. Box 578341
Chicago, Il, 60657
Marcy Brun, Faire Manager,
(Hot Line # 312/755/0051)

SOCIAL MIXER:
Friday, November 11, 1988
8:00pm - 12:00pm
admission - $4.00

FAIRE HOURS:
Saturday, November 12, 1988
9:00am - 6:00pm
admission - $4.00

DINNER:
Saturday, November 12, 1988
7:00pm - 9:30pm
admission - $10.00

HOTEL ROOM RATE:
$55.00 - single
$55.00 - double
$65.00 - tower

LIMOUSINE SERVICE:
free to and from O'hare Airport and hotel

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH:
The Milwaukee TI-Faire
November 13, 1988 / 9:00am - 5:00pm
Quality Inn
5311 S. Howell Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisc.
(across from Mitchell Field Airport)

PRODUCED BY:
The Milwaukee Area 99/4a Users' Group
Mr. Gene Kitz (414/535-0133)
4122 N. Glenway
Wauwatosa, Wisc. 53222
-also-
The Wisconsin 99er Computer Council
P. O. Box 2723

Appleton, Wisc. 54911

How is everyone doing this summer? I hope the heat hasn't been getting you down and keeping you from doing all the summer work you planned on doing around the house.

Well, the heat has been effecting me. My brain just doesn't seem to want to produce anymore. I just can't think of what more I can tell you about the TI Faire/Convention that I haven't told you already, accept that it's going to be a great time, and if you miss it, you will hate yourself.

Here is a list of exhibitors that are already signed up:

- ASGARD SOFTWARE -- new software by Charles Earl, Travis Watfort, Jam Reiss, Ed Johnson and Chriss Bobbitt.

- B&D COMPUTER SUPPLIES -- computer supplies.

- C&G DRIVES -- disk drives, power supplies.

- CHICAGO AREA TI-99/4A USERS' GROUP -- Club's library, membership information,T-shirts, pencils, TImes back issues.

- CHICAGO 8128 USERS GROUP -- discs, data cases, supplies, etc.

- COMPETITION COMPUTER -- TI and printers.

- DATA SYSTEMS --TI software.

- GENIAL COMPUTERWARE -- products for the TI.

- GENIE -- telecommunications service.

- GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE -- Joy Paint '99, Joy Paint's Pal Certificate '99, Certificate Companion, & at least one new release.

- HUNTER ELECTRONICS -- hardware, software.

- L.L.CONNER ENTERPRISE -- hardware, software, cables, chips, grom, ram.

- RAVE 99 CO. -- keyboard, speech adapter cards, memory expansion cards.

- TI USER GROUP OF WILL COUNTY -- membership information.

Remember, there is limited booth space. So if you know of a company that would like to exhibit or you have a company that should exhibit, act now to get a good space at the Faire.

We are starting to get the seminars lined up. So far we have Irwin Hott presentng "How The TI Is Used By A Blind Person"; and Chris Bobbitt will be giving demonstrations of new programs that are comming out. If you would like to present a seminar, please let me know as soon as possible.

I'm still looking for people to help produce the Faire. Somehow, I

lost my Committe List. So if you signed up for the Faire at the last meeting, please drop me a line or a call to let me know. So fare to my knowledge, the people helping to produce the Faire are as follows:

- Attendee Advertising and Promotion -- Mike Chappell
- Printing -- Roger Helm
- Equipment Collection -- Mark Harms
- Social Mixer Tickets & Reception -- Sandy Bartels, Dave Wakely
- Hospitality Room -- Mr.& Mrs. Hal Shanafield
- Faire Move-In & Move-Out -- Tim Fass
- Announcements -- Jon Bartels, Butch Goldstein
- Group Sales (T-shirts, pencils, etc) -- Sam Fincus
- Membership Table -- Irv Levinson, Ken Knapp, Matt Mullen
- Out-of-Town Travelers Information -- Grant Schmalgemeier
- Audio/Visual set-up -- Bob Demeter
- Exhibitor's Representative -- Paul Farber, Sandy Bartels
- Bulletin Board Systems Information -- Bob Demeter, Alan Izzo
- Back Issues Table -- The Shanafield family

The tickets are being printed now. Because of limited space, if you want to be sure you have a seat at the Saturday Night Dinner and the Friday Night Social Mixer, send in the reservation form below with your check (made out to the Chicao Area TI 99/4a Users' Group) to:

Marcy Brun, Faire Manager
Chicago TI Users' Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago, Il. 60657

Please send me the following regarding the 1988 TI FAIRE/CONVENTION:

[ ] Exhibitor Information

[ ] Hotel Reservation Form

Please send me tickets for the following:

(how many)

____ Social Mixer ($4.00 each)

____ Dinner ($10.00 each)

____ Faire ($4.00 each/children under 12 free)

___ Kids Night Out (pay at time of event)

NAME

_____

ADDRESS

_____

CITY, STATE, ZIP

_____

PHONE #

HUNTER ELECTRONICS

4N370 PINE GROVE
BENSENVILLE,IL.60106

USER EDITION
SEPT.1988

BY APPT.ONLY
312/766-9503

MYARC HARD DISK CONTROLLER

MYARC FINALLY HAS RELEASED ITS LONG AWAITED HARD CONTROLLER FOR THE 99/4A AND THE GENEVE'. YOU CAN NOW RUN MULTIPLE FLOPPY DRIVES(AS LONG AS THE ACCESS TIME IS AT LEAST 6 MS. OR FASTER), AS WELL AS MULTIPLE HARD DRIVES UP TO 100M EACH. OUR PRICE IS ONLY $299, AND DELIVERY **NOW**.

HARD DISK DRIVES

IF YOU NOW NEED AN EXCELLENT, LOW POWER DRIVE, CALL US ABOUT THE **KALOK** CORP. BRAND. THEY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN UP RECENTLY IN THE JULY 25 COMPUTER SYSTEM NEWS WITH THE FOLLING ADVANTAGES:

A.LOWERED PARTS COUNT BECAUSE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY, BETTER RELIABILITY
B.FEWER MOVING PARTS-GIVING BETTER RELIABILITY
C.MEAN TIME BETWEEN FAILURE-43500 HRS.(COMPARED TO SEAGATES 20,000)
D.LOW PRICE-ONLY $249 FOR 20M,5-1/4"(40M DUE OUT IN SEPT.)
E.DESIGNER OF THIS DRIVE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED SEAGATE'S ST225

MYARC PRODUCTS

GENEVE-$519		DS/DD FLOPPY CONTROLLER-$159	
RS232 - 115		512K MEMORY	279

MONITORS

MODEL 8762-COLOR COMPOSITE(80 COLUMN)	$259
MODEL 8CM873-RGB COLOR ANALOG(WORKS GENEVE)	549
MODEL BM7622-AMBER COMPOSITE(WORKS GENEVE)	99

NOTE: CALL FOR QUOTES ON SPECIAL CABLES FOR GENEVE HOOKUPS

USED EQUIPMENT SALE (FULL WARRANTY ON MOST ITEMS)

EXPANSION BOX ITEMS		STAND ALONE EQUIPMENT	
PASCAL CARD	$100	DISK CONTROLLER-$75	
RS232 CARD	60	RS232	60
EXP.SYSTEM	150	32K MEMORY	50
AXIOM PRINTER	40	SPEECH SYNETH.	35

USED SOFTWARE SALE

LOGO II	15	EDITOR ASSEMBLER	25		
T.E.11	10	TUNNEL OF DOOM	10	ZORK 1, 2	10
EXT.BASIC	35	PAINT N PRINT	15	MINI-MEM.	30

ASGARD SOFTWARE SALE (MENTION THIS AD-GET $3 OFF ANY OF THE BELOW)

FONT WRITER II-$22	LEGENDS - $25	CALENDAR MAKER-$19
DOOM GAMES 9	MISSILE WARS-10	ARTIST INSTANCE 25

LATEST RELEASE II BASE BY TESTAMENTS

A NEW DATABASE THAT PERMITS 5 DATABASES TO BE OPEN AT THE SAME TIME. YOU CAN MAKE A BASE OF AT LEAST 8000 ITEMS-EASILY. $22

NEED HELP OR ASSISTANCE-CALL FOR OUR LOW RATES. 312-766-9503

SHIPPING-ORDERS OF SOFTWARE UP TO $100, ADD $2, AND $3 ABOVE THAT. ILL.

GENEVE SUPPORT ARTICLE: Don Jones

Howdy doody there, sports fans! How is the summer treating you? Has it been hot enough for you??? I hope that you haven't been plagued by too many brown-outs or machine crashes, due to excessive heat build-ups. Well, when you're an addict, neither sleet or rain, or dark of night, not to mention a mere record setting heat wave, is going to stop you from playing around with Genny. Anyway, a little recognition is in order: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GENNY BABY!

I bet that most of you sports fans completely forgot that it was about a year ago that Genny first hit. Well, old Krome Dome couldn't forget, as it was about this time that I received my Geneve. It was also at about this time last year that I was working on some of the last aspects of the 1987 Faire. When I say last aspects, I mean the last things that I was able to do in advance and at home. I never will forget that job. My faithful 4A did yeoman service that year. Then, when I got my Genny, she took over with both alacrity and aplomb. One might say that it was working on the Faire that Genny received her "baptism by fire." Anyway, Happy Birthday, Genny Baby. It sure is good to have you around, for with your birth, we had the emergence of the first and only TI compatible computer.

Well, it looks like things are a little slow this summer, but, in my case, that's good. With all of the other things that are going on, in my life, I need a little break from the machine. Still, I haven't completely lost interest. In fact, I have been doing some calling and corresponding, in order to know exactly what's presently transpiring in our community, and I would like to share with you what I have found:

The first and most important thing is that the new Myarc hard/floppy disk controller card is completely finished, and it is presently being shipped out to dealers, who have ordered them. This is good, but what is better is the fact that IT WORKS!!! It looks like this new, little treat from Myarc is a winner the first time around. At first, there had been a delay, due the software problems. At that time, the card would work with our sibling machine, the 4A, but it wasn't working with Genny. Well this is no longer the case. The card is now working with both the TI and Genny. I am really excited about this new peripheral, and I am now waiting for my dealer to receive shipment of his order, of this new item.

Relative to this new peripheral, I was was very happy to find out that John Birdwell was writing the disk manager for the new hard/floppy disk controller card. When I found this out, it made my whole day. The reason why is that I have a great amount of confidence in John Birdwell as a programmer. I have seen what he was capable of doing with his Disk Utilities, and I was very impressed. Knowing that he is on the Myarc team made me feel very good, because I feel that any machine that has programmers like John Birdwell behind it can only thrive. Also, after having had the honor to meet him, at the last Chicago TI Faire, I came to the conclusion that he also happens to be both a nice and a level-headed person. I feel very strongly that Myarc's decision to put him on their team was an

excellent one. Keep up the good work, guys!

In addition to the emergence of the hard/floppy disk controller card, things have been rather calm, in the community, regarding Geneve, but I don't expect for this situation to remain in effect for very much longer. I say this because of the stories that I hear from various programmers, about work, which is presently in progress, on a plethora of programs for Genny. I am therefore predicting that a lot of nice, new programs, for Geneve, will be emerging, before the end of this year, and I'm not talking about any rudimentary stuff, like some of the things that we have seen a lot of lately. Rather, I'm talking about full blown, sophisticated programs that take advantage of Genny's speed and additional memory. Relative to this, I only say, "Trust me!" I also beg you Geneve users/owners to be patient. You'll later see that old Krome Dome Jonz wasn't just "whistling Dixie!"

Though things have been slow for me, I haven't been completely idle. I have been out soliciting programs for our group's bbs, and I have started uploading them so that our local board will be a proper repository of support files for Geneve. Even though I have been doing this, it is also clear to me that is not my responsibility, as an assistant sysop, to upload programs to the board, in order to keep it going. Rather, it is the responsibility of the users of the board to do this. I am therefore requesting that if you have any good or new files, for Geneve, that you please upload them to our board. If you are too far away to do this, please send copies of your programs, on disk, to me, at our post office box number. I will then upload them to the board.

You many remember that in some of my previous articles, I discussed some of the undocumented aspects of MY-Word. Here, I would like to suggest that all Geneve users start, if you haven't already done so, to learn how to use the various functions and commands in MDOS, instead of depending on various disk managers, which are loaded into the GPL (TI) mode. If you take my advice and do this, you will find that virtually everything that you would want to do, with a disk manager, can be done in the MDOS mode. Learning to use MDOS can help you avoid having to load up disk manager for your usual house-keeping chores. There is nothing that I can presently think of, that can be done with a disk manager program that can't also be done with MDOS. I realize that working within a DOS is largely an unfamiliar task for those of us, in the TI community. At the same time, I urge you to become familiar with it; it isn't as hard as it looks. Rather, it is set up with very logical commands that are laid out in a rather common-sense way. I therefore thouroughly recommend that all Geneve users immerse themselves into this aspect of our machine. (For those of you who use MS-DOS, at work, you will find that though our DOS is a "clone" of MS-DOS, some commands are a lot easier to perform in MDOS. If you haven't already done so, check out this aspect of your machine. You won't be sorry that you did.

Well, what should I be talking about next??? Well, I'm not sure what the need is, at this point. I think that I will devote my next article to software enhancements and patches, for existing TI software. Also, by the time that the next issue of our newsletter comes out, I am sure that there will be something else which needs to be discussed. Until then, just keep on "hacking."

For those readers who are contemplating purchasing an MS-DOS machine, I urge you to be patient just a little longer. I say this because with the development of the software, that is presently emerging for Geneve, you will find that Genny is capable doing just about anything that you would want your clone to do. In addition to that, you will find it a lot easier machine to use. It is also a lot more fun, too.

Well, I think that it is time for Krome Dome Jonz to sign-off. If I do, I think that I will, for the first time, be within the requested limitation for the length of my article. So until the next time,

enditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditendit

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TRADING TIMES

Harold May has several brand new P. E. boxes for sale at $95, also two TI 32K expansion memories at $50 each. Harolds phone # is 325-1910

Remember Andy Chernivsky. He built that nifty little "Mini Expansion Box" featured in a 1986 issue of the Chicago TImes. He is selling it along with a number of other TI peripherals This "box" holds two cards plus one 1/2 height drive (included). This was hand made with the finest quality parts loving attention to detail. Truly a one of a kind and only $175.

He is also selling a 32K memory expansion card for $50, a tan console (no transformer or modulator) for $35, 2 Cannon 2/3 ht DSDD drives for $65, Drive enclosure for two full height drives or 2 2/3 height drives for $70.

You can reach Andy at 106-56th Court Downers Grove, Il 60516 or by phone at (312) 969-4780

Bill Pulick has an extra TI99/4A computer, an expansion box, a disk drive and game modules, ball joysticks and disk and module software for sale or trade. Contact Bill at (312) 376-1452. Bill has also donated his program "Alphabet Teacher" to the group library and is interested in your reactions. If you have tried it, let him know your reaction.

Spadventure #7: Behind the Lines

When your commander told you he wanted to see you in his office for a special assignment, you jumped at the chance, given that this war seems to be winding down and your opportunity to become a hero is disappearing fast. So you sat down in the briefing room and got from him the story of this month's Spadventure, which incidentally requires that you have the Mark 2 version of Spad XIII.

It seems that the enemy managed to salvage a downed Spad which ran out of fuel behind the lines. The Allies would rather that they not take it apart and copy some of the aerodynamic principles of the airfoil construction or the power of the engine. Scouting reports indicated that the plane was on the tarmac at the enemy field, all of which explains why you slipped behind enemy lines on foot and are now hiding in the sparse bushes just off the enemy airfield.

Once you have loaded Spad XIII, use the "M" key to display the location menu. Choose the option for the "Enemy Airfield". This will place your Spad behind the lines, with Germans all around you. Strangely enough, this looks a lot like the home airfield, except there are two hangars here, just off the east edge of the runway. There don't seem to be any guards in sight, so it's time for you to make a dash across the open space and into the plane. The sound of the engine as you rev it up to 1200 RPM is soon going to bring a fairly large number of angry soldiers with rifles, so I suggest you spend as little time as possible here.

Take off as quickly and as steeply as you can. For your sake, I hope the Germans haven't already started taking your plane apart. Nothing like getting up off the ground before discovering that you have no ailerons to steer with! As soon as you get some altitude on it is time to test that by banking right (east), preferably right over the second hangar. Since the name of the game is to destroy the enemy, see if you can land a bomb on the hangar as you pass over it.

Unfortunately, if you bank too quickly after takeoff you will crash, and you can't afford to hang around for several passes at the airfield. If your bomb drop missed the hangar, just keep going, continuing to bank until you are headed directly east. All around you you will see bursts of flak, which in the last installment we learned was called "Archie" by Allied flyers. Keep climbing to 1,500 feet, until you get away from the ground batteries. It seems they are not happy about your stealing back the plane.

Now that you are out of immediate danger, your adrenaline level has dropped sufficiently for you to think again. It would be a fairly easy matter to bank around and head back home, but what the heck, the plane is performing well, and the Germans thoughtfully refueled it

for you, so why not do some behind the line scouting?

There was an unconfirmed report that there is an Allied force cut off and stranded on top of the Marne hills, directly east of here. Confirmation of this could form the basis of a rescue effort, and disconfirmation could save some lives. Level off at 1,500 feet and keep heading east, the hills will come into sight shortly after the enemy airfield disappears behind you. By all means don't forget that you are over enemy territory, so keep checking for aircraft around you. These peaceful-looking skies can be deceiving.

On the other hand, it is rather hard to miss the hills. There are two of them, and one is taller than the other. When you come up on them, adjust your altitude so that you are at about the height of the taller one. "Buzz" the hill by coming within a few feet of the peak if you can. Using your altimeter as a guide, what is the height of this hill? Remember back when we were in flight school and took a close-up look at the trees? Well, the same deal holds here. If you are a few feet short of the summit, it is no problem, you will pass right through the hill!

Now bank around and buzz the second, shorter hill. Do you see any troops around here? Me neither. These hills are alive with the sound of nothing, and if there was anyone here, apparently they left or were captured. Maybe they are in hiding, since for all they know you are an enemy plane and they are trying to keep from being spotted. Just to be sure, make a few more passes at the hills from different angles. Pretty strange geography they have around here. Nothing like the States, where the hills are solid.

You know, this hasn't been especially difficult so far. Now that I think of it, there was also an unconfirmed report that the village of Mareuil was destroyed in the most recent fighting. If this is true there is no need to send a relief force to assist any Allied operatives. You could save some more lives by confirming this. According to your map, Mareuil isn't all that far from here, and your commander just has to give you that promotion and a weekend pass in Paris if you can come back with the information.

Okay, head straight north, using your compass to find north, and the perspective lines to stay on this heading. There sure don't seem to be any planes chasing us today, maybe the Germans are all up harassing the home airfield, and maybe its a good thing you took this mission. You will cross more empty space on the way to the village, but eventually it will pop up in front of you.

Yup, there it is, starting out as just a dot on the landscape, it will grow in definition, so start losing altitude to get a good look at it. Say, is that some sort of smoke signal rising from the town, or is that just random smoke from the rubble? Better not set it down just yet, as there may be enemy forces here.

Just as you suspected, the town seems deserted. The "War to End all Wars" sure did a number on this city. A couple of passes over the town should confirm this. If there's anyone down there, good luck to them. It's time to quit pushing our own luck and head home before dark or an enemy plane catches up with us.

I haven't given you a lot of commands in this installment. By now you should be quite familiar with the controls of the plane and how to navigate around the operational area. If you've been following this series from the beginning it should be clear that our present position will take us back home on approximately the same course we followed the last time, when we downed some of the balloons. Whatever you did then to get back home, do it again. I can tell you that the way you want to go from here is southwest. This entire session should take you most of an hour.

On the way home, while watching the skies, you can also start looking forward to that weekend pass. I seem to recall a little bistro overlooking the Seine. You know, the one where the owner's daughter kept making eyes at you. Have fun.

HIGH RES GRAPHICS AND THE 99/4A

by Anne Dhein

Support for Drawing Packages
Section 3: Screen Graphics

In 1980, Texas Instruments chose to present their 1979 Annual Report on a 99/4 computer. The presentation included a map of their Texas plants, statistical graphs and bright graphics interspersed with text - all accompanied by appropriate, mood-setting music. The first generation of would-be 99/4 programmers advanced their BASIC skills by studying the techniques used in this impressive public domain program. Today it is a classic example of what can be accomplished with presentation graphics...and, it was all done in BASIC.

The Mechanics of Presentation Graphics
With a computer, presentations don't have to be static. JOB COST is an example of a unique, interactive presentation created for a fence company. Besides informing a prospective customer as to how much a particular fence would cost when the fence type, length, height, etc. were input, the program was a very effective advertisement. Another impressive presentation which made the rounds of early users' group meetings, used a tape recorder which was synchronized with graphics to describe 99/4 software the company was selling.

Good presentations were not all commercial in nature. One popular classic displays Santa and his reindeer, complete with cheery Christmas message personalized with the user's own name. The beautiful graphics are accompanied by a medlay of Christmas music which can be listened to and enjoyed again and again each Christmas season. The common denominator of these early, varied programs is the graphics and text (and in some cases speech and music) that are combined to get a point or a message across to the viewer. That's what "presentation graphics" are all about!

With the advent of the high resolution drawing packages, coupled with the use of the Editor Assembler cartridge and more memory, the field of Presentation Graphics has matured rapidly. In fact, many types of programs can benefit from the easy accessibility of graphics screens created with a paint program. A user no longer has to struggle through the complexities of figuring many CALL CHARs just to get one graphic screen in Basic. Instead, a complete set of related pictures can be designed with a drawing package, and transported to Extended Basic with one of the many conversion programs that are available. With some conversion processes, the graphics become an Extended Basic merge file and are indistinguishable from any other Extended Basic graphics. Thus, your set of related pictures may turn into arcade graphics for your latest game program! Title screens are now commonly handled this way - TI Artist, Display Master, Picasso Publisher, Joy Paint and Joy Paint's Pal, among others, all have title screens created with a paint program.

Pictures and Programs
Some more good examples of this type of programming can be found in the musical programs offered by Ken Gilliand as fairware. Not only are the music and singing excellent, but the graphics are great too. In SOUTH PACIFIC, the screen looks almost as though it were fresh off the record cover. The viewer is given a choice of three South Pacific songs, each of which has its own unique graphics screen - created with TI Artist.

One of the newest contenders for the title of "All-Time Great Presentation" is Ray Kazmer's 1987 Christmas gift to the TI community - WOODSTOCK. For 6 1/2 minutes you will be amazed, amused, surprised and delighted at what happens when Snoopy leaves a Christmas gift for Woodstock on top of his doghouse. How were these fantastic graphics created? Only the programmer knows for sure!

Slide Presentations
If one wishes to create a presentation without worrying about programming at all, there is a choice of programs for displaying the chosen graphics. Annual reports and other business or commercial presentations, an accompaniment for a lecture, tutorials, or an electronic greeting card, are all made easy with this type of program. Paul Charlton's Graphx Slideshow, distributed by Asgard, is an assembly language utility which will load through Extended Basic, catalog a disk and display all the Graphx files found, in alphabetical order. File order can be changed simply by renaming the files. Time between slides can be user defined from 10 to 90 seconds. The program is very satisfactory because it is so easy to use and performs so well.

Display Master, from Inscebot, uses TI Artist rather than Graphx files. It is a little more complicated to use because it does more, but is still quite user-friendly. Display Master allows slides to be shown in any sequence for any amount of time. Captions can be added, either to a blank screen or superimposed on a picture. They can be erased as desired, or new ones added. With this same caption command, special features of the slide can be pointed out. A border can be added to the slide if desired. Screen color can be changed, and colors chosen for the caption boxes. Loops can be created for special effects. Commands are carried out by means of a "Command file" which is written by the user through TI Writer or any compatible word processor. Display Master is versatile enough to be used in many ways. It would be an excellent program for children to use for writing a story to go with

graphics they have created. Several different captions can be added to one picture, or whole screens of text can be inserted. Screen color can be changed to create moods or simulate an explosion. Creative possibilities are endless. The only disadvantage to programs like Display Master and Graphics Slideshow is that the presentation must take place within the program itself, which means that the host program's title screen will preceed each presentation. You may feel this is a small price to pay for the convenience of being able to put together your own presentation in a minimum amount of time.

PILOT As a Second Language

Those who need a way to put interactive graphic instructional material together without a lot of programming experience might do well to look into PILOT (Programmed Inquiry Learning Or Teaching). This language was originally developed as a teaching aid and was standardized in 1972 with just eight commands. The TI 99/4A version was developed by Thomas P. Weithofer as a college project in 1984. Thomas died at the age of 22, of cystic fibrosis, shortly after Pilot was released as Fairware.

Pilot 99 is written in TI Forth, and is fast, as well as very easy to learn. The eight standard commands are there, plus extras that allow access to the speech, music, sprites and bit map capabilities that make the 99/4A computer so special. High resolution graphics are fairly simple to create, and are displayed on the top two thirds of the screen. The bottom third is reserved for interactive text. Programs are developed on the TI Writer or other word processor, much as the Display Master command files are developed. After the program is written the Editor Assembler or Extended Basic cartridge is used to load and run it.

Pilot 99 is most useful to those who know a lot about their subject and not much about programming. A good, workable program can be developed the first time Pilot is used, but as the user becomes more familiar with Pilot, programs can become very complex. Most user group libraries have this program.

Other Languages and High Res

The use of Pilot underlines the fact that programmers no longer have to stick to Basic or assembly language to program with graphics. Pilot is a good example of the power and versatility of TI Forth. There are two versions of Forth available, both excellent. Wycove Forth, a commercial version from Canada, came out first. TI Forth was released to the public domain by Texas Insturments soon afterwards. Although very similiar, the two languages are not compatible. Some very good drawing programs have come out in Forth. JP GRAPHICS by Jean-Pierre Morin is a fairware program from Canada written in TI Forth. It is designed to draw color graphics on either a full or split screen. The program has a Logo flavor, so if you have ever wondered what Logo was all about, this program will give you an idea. Programs, called "command lists" may be created and saved. The program has literally dozens of commands which are accessed with a single key press, and like Logo, the user can even define his own commands. Even with all the built-in capability, the program is easy to begin using and can be entertaining for practically forever.

FORTH DRAW, another fairware program, is written by Barry Comer in Wycove Forth. It gives the user a simple but complete drawing program and comes with good instructions. Like JPGRAPHICS, it can be loaded through Extended Basic or the Editor Assembler and no knowledge of Forth is necessary to use them. These programs, and others like them, make delightful entertainment for any age.

C99, a fairware language from Canada, is a faithful copy of small c as it can be found on most home computers. C99 was developed by Clint Pulley and it has become a popular language in the TI community, with many persons adding "libraries" to the original functions. The bitmap graphics functions were added by Jay Holovac. Many important programs are now being written in c99, both commercial and fairware. The complete Printer's Apprentice system from McCann Software has been developed in c99. Since c99 is a compiled language, it runs almost as fast as any comparable assembly language program and can't readily be told apart from one.

The language of choice for children is still Logo; not only because of its educational aspects, but because it can delight a child for hours, giving even beginners a taste of successful computer programming. While not actually a high resolution drawing board, the turtle, drawing tiles, and sprites combine to create a pleasurable drawing experience for anyone who likes to experiment.

Another rewarding drawing environment for those who have some programming ability can be found within some of the new Extended Basic cartridges that have been coming out. All are faithful copies of TI's Extended Basic cartridge with added enhancements that allow for much easier programming with graphics. The Megatronics cartridge, which was developed in Germany, is one. Super Extended Basic from Triton is another. This cartridge includes the complete Draw 'N Plot drawing program from Quality 99 Software. High res drawing is also easily achieved with Myarc's Extended Basic II. In fact, this cartridge is a programmer's paradise with its graphics commands, built-in text mode, windowing function, and large memory. However, there have been few programs developed for any of these modules as yet. So, for the end user, they remain a promise for tomorrow.

Next, in section four: Multi-purpose packages for printing needs.

NICK SPEAKS!

OH NO not again what his problem this time.

Not much just a few thing that I must tell you about your TI computer.

NEW PRODUCT THE GRAMULATOR

I was going to write an article on all the products available for the TI but my machine blew up and now I dont have the time.

One of the best new product I heard of is the Gramulator a Gram Kracker clone for $180+ write Mark Van Coppenolle 52 Aubon Rd. Haverhill Ma. 01876.

ON SPEEDING UP EX-BASIC

A great new program design to speed up and hide Ex-basic is called EX-Basic Speeder Protecter. I have seen this program work it does exactly what it saids. It speeds up most ex-basic programs. To order send $10.00 to Nick Iacovelli Jr. 1411 N. 36th Melrose Park IL 60160-2726

ON RYTE DATA

I wrote a letter to Ryte Data because I heard rumors of them declairing bankruptcy. Bruce Ryan pesident of the company said NO. They are still supporting the TI with 3 Products Command Dos, Monty Schmidts Technical Drive and the 99AT Expansion System. All other product have been discontinue.

Command Dos can be purchase thru Trition Products at 1-800-227-6900. The 99AT and Technical Drive at by calling 1 (705) 457-2774

Ryte Data is now Millennium Computers and are active in the IBM/Compatable business system on a local level.

ON ASGARD NEWS

ASGARD Software annouced Asgard News. A magzine to keep the TI community inform with what happenning with thier computer. Current Price is $6.00 for 4 issue of 16-32 pages.

Here is where I make some enemies. Do the TI-Users need a new

magazine is there enough information out there that can hold the interest of the TI users or will it be just a magazine of reprints that was publish in past Ti-newsletters. If it reprints your interested in ask your local newsletters exchange officer if you can borrow them for reading.

ON YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

I notice a lot of thing in the newsletters exchange that should have been reprinted in the Chicago Newsletter years ago. The information I have seen is from basic to assembly and hardware. I went to the group executive board and showed them the book I made of hardware projects. This book contains info on speeding up your computer and building a printer stand. I told them I would like to share this book with the rest of the members. They said go for it. The next step was to get it copy at the lowest price available. After calling all over town the lowest price I could get was .07 cent a sheet 140 pages at .07 cent a page was $9.80. The group decided to keep on looking for a lower price. The corner drug store will give us copies for .05 a sheet ($7.00 a book). I told the group this is the cheapest price you are going to get. They still didn't want to give me the funds to go ahead and get it copied. I told the group I had this book made up in APR. You said get it copied I found the lowest price possible and you still dont want to give me money to get it copy. I told them give me the money now or I will scrap the whole thing I got my book if you want one you go thru the back issues of newsletters and dig them out. Everyone on the executive board wanted one so it was decided to put it off another month. I agreed. The executive board decided to hold a special board meeting in july only 3 people show up, Hank,Myself and Mr. Chuck Levitt. I told them I can get the book copied for $5.00 a book. Hank said go ahead. I call our treasurer and ask him to send me the money to get the book copy he said according to the bylaw any thing $500.00 or more needs a majority of the executive board decision.

I called Hank and told him the treasurer is not going to send me the money. I told him I am scrapping it. Hank said dont he told me to call the treasurer and send me a check for 99 books or $495.00. I got the check and the book are now being made and should be ready by the Sept meeting. All this trouble for a book I had completed in APR.

I mention the group had bylaws. These bylaws are suppose to govern the groups decision. I have not seen the bylaws but was told they are there. These bylaws covers thing like purchases above $500.00 and what happens to the treasury when the group disbands. The executive board told me that the bylaws state that the groups treasury balance should not be printed in the newsletter and if anyone wants to know the exact amount they should show up at a executive board meeting and ask the treasurer.

If the groups decides to disband let me say I believe there is enough money to refund some cash to each member instead of what the bylaws saids and give it all to charity.

SHOW UP AT A EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AND ASK QUESTIONS.

On Newsletter Exchanges

I mention before that newsletters hold a lot of information.
I need people to type in the information in these newsletters so we can reprint them in our newsletters. See the paragraph on volunteer in this newsletter.

The newsletters is important to each groups to find out what other groups are doing. The Chicago User Group send out 102 newsletters exchanges a month. This feature is costly to the chicago groups as well as the group they exchange with. One solution to cut cost on postage and distribution was to put the article on a disk and mail it that way.

That idea was knock down because most exchange officer didn't like sitting down and printing out all the newsletters comming in. I came up with this idea. I have a listing of over 200 groups. All user groups send 1 copy of thier newsletters to a national printer. Each group send a check for .05 a page (base on local copy machine rates) X 200 (if 200 user groups join) to get the newsletters copyied. The printer then package the newsletters each month and mail
it to the Newsletter Exchange Officer.

This system will make all newsletters exchanges easier and will free up some time for your newsletters exchanges officer. If you know of a printer or a person with a copy machine who want to do this have them write me and I will mail them a copy of my user-group list.

PUT YOUR COMPUTER TO WORK FOR YOU.

Another idea for a person who want to make money using his computer. A back issue of this newsletters had a article on a RLE digitizer. If you had built this digitizer and can't find a use for it. Contact all users groups and ask them to send you the back issues of thier newsletters. For a fee you will put all issue into a RLE file. The group can resell the back issues on disk in RLE format. A program may have to be written to window the full page on the screen in bit-map
mode or to print it out. Just a idea for people with the digitizer.

ON THE IBM-MYARC 9640 DEBATE

I will not buy a 9640!!! Most people in your TI group are ready for a change in computing power. There is 2 ways to go
IBM clone or myarc 9640. Going the ibm route means plenty of software for the taking via bbs. Going 9640 means another wait of promise for software being develop. You waited for years for the 9640 when it finally arrived the user who purchase the system had to debug it. Now most people that write software for the TI is giving up. In the library exchange I see fewer new programs coming out. The only programs I see for the 9640 is GIF picture being taking off compuserve. I am still a TI owner I do not own a 9640. The bbs now

is all talk on how to get old programs to run on this machine. I believe the 9640 divided the TI group why dont they start thier own newsletters and leave the 99/4A people out of it. I hate listen to there compaint or praise. When and If I get Geneve I will join thier group otherwise I dont want to bother.

I did buy me a Ibm clone. The Ibm software I have now does everything the TI did with a major increase in speed. All the software I recieved are from local bbs. I have a nice fast stock program,data bases and games. I recommend buying IBM clone. Take a poll in your group see how many owns or has access to a clone, has a geneve or both.

ON TIGERCUB SOFTWARE JIM PETERSON

Jim Petterson of Tiger Cub Software wrote many small programs
that you may want to included in your programs. Jim shows the best way to use CALL KEY and HANDLING OF SCREEN DISPLAY. Most of Jim's programs use a technique to write a program to disk using a merge file. Upon completion of typing in the program and running the new file created will be on the disk ready to merge in. In the next few months the group will be will be reprinting Jims program tips. I have included one to be reprinted somewhere in this newsletter.

Reading these tip I suggest that you write Jim at the address below for the purchase price of the complete set.

Contact JIM Petterson Tigercub software 156 Collingwood Ave. Columbas OH 43213. Phone (614)235-3545

VOLUNTEER!!!! THE GROUP,YOUR GROUP needs your help. Why is it I can get help from other TI User Groups but when it comes to Chicago forget it. I must thank Jim Susco From Cinday User Group for the user groups PRBASE list. Without this I would have spent years getting the usersgroup newsletter exchange in order. My thank also go to Tommy Thompson,Bob Sweet,John Bullock and Charley Finn from the Johnson Space Center Jug user group. They are doing the work to make sure the Chicago User Group is included in the United TI-99/4a data base. This database is a compiled listing of other user group newsletters information. This PRBASE data-base can be made available to the general user. The chicago user group will be given a copy but I dont think it should be available to the members at all. NO HELP NO GAIN. Here is your chance to help. The Chicago User Group library committe is starting a library exchange policy with other groups. We will need 20 or more members to catalog the disks that comes in and to write in thier comments using the new program CATLIB COMPANION. This will not be a thankless job. For doing this you may keep the a copy of the disk received. What a good way of increasing your library and the groups library too. Out of town members are invited to help also. If you want to help see me at the next user group meeting, call my TI-BBS at (312)345-4127 or mail a letter to my home address.

Nick Iacovelli JR.
1411 N. 36th
Melrose Park IL. 60160-2726

FROM THE OTHER ORPHANAGES: Compiled by Nick I

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER #1

by Jim Peterson

The hardest part of learning to program is not in learning what the various commands do - it is in learning how to put them all together to do what you want them to do!

Key in this simple routine and run it, to see what it does. Then read the explanations of each line and see how they do what they do!

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: RANDOMIZE
110 B=INT(5*RND+2):: IF B=B2
 THEN 110 ELSE B2=B
120 F=INT(5*RND+2):: IF F=F2
 THEN 120 ELSE F2=F
130 D=INT(5*RND+2):: IF D=D2
 THEN 130 ELSE D2=D
140 X=F*B*D
150 BB=INT(5*RND+2):: IF BB=
BB2 OR BB=B THEN 150 ELSE BB
2=BB
160 DD=INT(5*RND+2):: IF DD=
DD2 OR DD=D THEN 160 ELSE DD
2=DD
170 F=F*BB*DD
180 DISPLAY AT(3,1)ERASE ALL
:"IF";B;"BOYS CAN CATCH";X;"
FROGS IN";D;"DAYS,"
190 DISPLAY AT(6,1):"HOW MAN
Y FROGS CAN";BB;"BOYS":"CATC
H IN";DD;"DAYS?"
210 ACCEPT AT(7,19):Q
220 IF Q=F THEN DISPLAY AT(9
,1):"THAT'S RIGHT!" :: GOTO
110
230 DISPLAY AT(9,1):"NO, THA
T'S WRONG."
240 DISPLAY AT(11,1):"IF";B;
"BOYS CAN CATCH";X;"FROGS IN
";D;"DAYS"
250 DISPLAY AT(13,1):"THEN O
NE BOY CAN CATCH";X/B;"FROGS
 IN";D;"DAYS"
260 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"AND ON
E BOY CAN CATCH";X/B/D;"FROG
S IN ONE DAY."
270 DISPLAY AT(17,1):"SO, IF
 ONE BOY CAN CATCH";X/B/D;"F
ROGS IN ONE DAY,"
280 DISPLAY AT(19,1):"THEN";
BB;"BOYS CAN CATCH";X/B/D*BB
;"FROGS IN ONE DAY"
290 DISPLAY AT(21,1):"AND";B
B;"BOYS CAN CATCH";X/B/D*BB*
DD;"FROGS IN";DD;"DAYS."300
DISPLAY AT(24,1):"PRESS ANY
KEY" :: CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF
 S=0 THEN 300 ELSE 110
```

Clear the screen and insure that selection of random numbers will be different each time.

RND gives a random number between 0 and .999... Therefore RND*5 gives a random number between 0 and 4.99999.... INT drops the decimal part of a number, so INT(RND*5) gives a random whole number between 0 and 4, and INT(RND*5+2) gives a whole number between 2 and 6.

The first time the program is run, B2 has never been given a value, so it equals 0. Since B is between 2 and 6, it does not equal B2; the program continues, B2 is given the value of B. When the next random problem is selected, if the same value happens to be selected again for B, B2 will equal B and the program will go back to make another selection. This prevents the "stupid computer syndrome" of the same question being asked twice in a row.

B was the number of boys in the first question. In the same way, F is selected to be the number of frogs that one boy can catch in one day, and D is selected to be the number of days in the first question.

In line 140, F is multiplied by B by D to find the total number of frogs in the first question. This method insures that all calculations will be in whole numbers.

In lines 150 and 160, BB and DD are randomly selected as the numbers of boys and days in the second question. These values are rejected if they are the same as the previous time or if they are the same as were selected for the first question.

Line 170 then multiplies the number of frogs that one boy can catch in one day by the number of boys and days in the second question.

The rest is merely a matter of screen formatting. Note that numeric variables can be incorporated in string text, by separating them with semicolons; they will print out their value with a blank space before and after. Note also that numeric calculations can be performed within the DISPLAY AT statements, and will print the numeric result of the calculation preceded and followed by a blank space.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER #2

by Jim Peterson

The hardest part of learning to program is not in learning what the various commands do - it is in learning how to put them all together to do what you want them to do!

Key in this simple routine and run it, to see what it does. Then read the explanations of each line and see how they do what they do!

Your computer won't take that 6th line in line 110? Just type 5 full lines and enter, bring it back by typing 110 and FCTN X, use FCTN D to scoot the cursor to the end of the line, and type some more.

```
1 !       2-LINE GAME
        by Jim Peterson
- use SD keys to paint the
white line on the highway
100 CALL CLEAR :: A$=RPT$(CH
R$(143),6):: CALL COLOR(14,2
,2,2,16,16):: CALL SCREEN(4)
:: T=11 :: C=14 :: CALL HCHA
R(22,C+2,42):: RANDOMIZE
110 T=T+INT(3*RND-1)+(T=21)-
(T=1):: PRINT TAB(T);A$ :: C
ALL KEY(3,K,S):: C=C+(K=83)-
(K=68):: CALL HCHAR(22,C+2,4
2):: IF C<T OR C>T+5 THEN ST
OP ELSE 110
```

This is not a finished program, but an example of the ways that efficient programming can accomplish a great deal in very little memory.

The screen is cleared and A$, which will be the highway, is defined as ASCII 143 repeated 6 times. A single CALL COLOR is used to color set 14 (the highway) black on black and set 2 (the painter) white on white. T sets the first line of the highway to begin at TAB 11 and C places the painter 3 spaces to the right, in the middle of the highway. CALL HCHAR places the painter on row 22 and column C+2 because an HCHAR column is 2 spaces to the left of a TAB or PRINT column. RANDOMIZE makes a different highway for each game.

INT(3*RND) gives a random value of 0, 1 or 2; subtracting 1 from this gives -1, 0 or 1, so the tab position for the next line of the high- way shifts one space left or right or, if 0, remains the same. +(T=21)-(T=1) uses relational values. If tab is already at 21, adding one would cause the 6-line road to print one line lower and at the left of the screen. So, if T=21 then (T=21) has a true relational value of -1; +(-1) = -1, so 1 is subtracted to keep the tab from going beyond 21. If the tab is already at 1, (T=1) has a true value of -1; -(-1) = +1, so 1 is added to keep tab from reaching 0. If T is not 21 and T is not 1, both have a false value of 0 and no change is made.

A line of the highway is printed, and CALL KEY looks for a keyboard input; the mode 3 accepts any input as upper case even if the alpha lock is up.

C=C+(K=83)-(K=68) is another example of the use of relational values for compact programming. K is the ASCII value of the key that was pressed; 68=D and 83=S. If S was pressed then C=C+(-1)-(0) and C=-1-0 and the painter moves one space left. If D was pressed, C=C+(0)-(-1) and C=C+0+1 and the painter moves right; if no key was pressed (K will equal -1) or any other key was pressed, C=C+(0)-(0).

So, the new position of the painter is printed by HCHAR; if it is less than the current tab position or more than 5 spaces to the right of tab, he is off the road and crashes; otherwise execution goes back to calculate the next random tab position and start over.

And all that in two lines of programming!

Now, what two values could you change to make the game more challenging? Try changing the 6 to a 5 in A$=RPT$(CHR$(143),6) and the 5 to a 4 in C>T+5. How could you offer the option of an easy or difficult game? How could you restart after a crash? Improve the graphics?

HOW TO AVOID BEING CHEATED WHEN PURCHASING FROM OUT-OF-TOWN DEALERS

By Charles Good
Reprinted from ***Bits,Bytes, and Pixels***
Published by the Lima OH 99/4A User Group

With warnings in Micropendium and the newsletters about less than ethical dealers, some of us are a little nervous about sending money to an out of state dealer and then waiting for the goods to be delivered. Almost all retail dealers require prepayment, but WHAT IF THE STUFF YOU ORDERED NEVER ARRIVES? There is a way to guarantee that you will not loose any money if the dealer doesn't send you what you ordered and paid for. MAKE YOUR PRUCHASES BY BANK CREDIT CARD such as VISA, MASTER CHARGE, or DISCOVER.

U.S. federal law requires goods ordered from an out of state dealer and paid for in advance must be shipped within 30 days of payment. If the merchandise is back ordered and cannot be shipped within 30 days the dealer is REQUIRED to notify the customer in writing and offer the customer the choice of either a prompt refund or a continuation of the back order. If the merchandise remains back ordered, the dealer must again send such a notice to the customer every 30 days. If you pay for your order by credit card and don't get your stuff (or an offer of a refund) after 30 days, you can contact the bank that issued your charge card. Show the bank the dealer's charge on your credit card bill giving the bank as much written documentation about your order as possible. THE BANK WILL RESCIND THE TRANSACTION! The dealer's account will recieve a debit and your credit card account will recieve a credit for the amount you paid. The bank HAS TO DO THIS for paid for undelivered out of state orders, and most banks will do the same for undelivered orders from in state dealers. It is not up to you to prove to the bank that you never got what you paid for, it is up to the dealer to prove that you did if the dealer wants its debit changed back to a credit. Thus, paying by bank charge card provides you with a guarantee that you will get what you pay for!

There are other advantages to using a bank charge card:

1- IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT. Dealers that accept credit cards will be glad to take your order over the phone. Many have convenient toll free phone numbers. Once your credit card account is varified the dealer will ship immediately, since the varification guarantees the dealer payment. If you later don't pay your credit card bill that becomes a problem between you and your bank. The dealership still gets its money. You don't have to wait for your order to reach the dealer via the mail, and you don't have to wait while the dealer holds your money while your personal check clears.

2- PAYMENT ONLY AS GOODS ARE SHIPPED. Most dealers will only bill your credit card account when the goods are actually shipped. If some items are shipped and some are back ordered, your account will usually only be billed for those items actually shipped. If you pay in advance by money order or personal check this kind of partial billing is not possible.

The major disadvantage to using bank credit cards for payment is that some dealers charge the customer a percentage fee for handling such orders. TEX COMP charges 3%, which is what TEX COMP pays its bank for processing the credit card orders TEX COMP receives. Some other TI dealers, such as TRITON and TENEX, do not pass this fee directly on to customers.

Whats that you say, you are afraid to give out your credit card number over the phone or by mail. Well, I buy alot of things by credit card over the phone, and I have never known any dealer to missuse my credit card number or give my number to a third party and cause my account to be billed for goods I didn't order. It is very unlikely that a dealer would ever do this, because resulting complaints would cause the dealer's bank to revoke the dealer's privilege to accept credit card orders.

What do you do if the dealer doesn't accept credit card orders? Well, you might try another dealer. For example, you can pruchase CERTIFICATE 99 directly from the publisher Great Lakes Software, but they don't take credit cards. You can purchase the same software, at the same price, from TEX COMP or TRITON who do accept credit cards.

Although the information provided above refers to dealers who cater to owners of TI computers, the same rules apply to any prepaid merchandise ordered from out of state dealers. It is SAFER, MORE CONVENIENT, and usually COSTS NO MORE to prepay with bank credit cards rather than with money orders or personal checks when ordering.

DONE

SHAUG'88 WHEN IS IT TIME TO UPGRADE? © Ron Albright GENERAL

From the Oct 87 LA Topics

There is a great deal of debate these days about which upgrade path users of the 99/4A computer should take. That is, of course, assuming these users have reached a point in their computer needs that upgrading is necessary. I think that is the key point in the whole issue. Have you come to that juncture? If TI Writer is all you need for your word processing, and Multiplan, PRbase (or Total Filer), and Fast Term fill your spreadsheet, database, and communication requirements, why upgrade? For those whose computer uses are related to home budget, education or learning programming, or short correspondences with friends, the 99/4A can, quite probably, still fill all those functions admirably. For all but those with unlimited resources (i.e. "money to burn"), the argument to change computers for the sake of using the "fastest and the latest" is fallacious. A home user does not need an 80286 IBM-AT or clone running at 16 mHz. Period. Their need for DBase III+ or Lotus 1-2-3 or all the features of Crosstalk XVI is equally questionable. Change for the sake of change is a luxury few of us can indulge in.

But there are times when one does need to upgrade to new technology. For someone who is using the latest spreadsheets or relational databases at work and needs to be able to carry some of that work home, then it may be time to think about buying a new computer. If one undertakes starting a home business and needs software to manage the books, or a complicated mailing list, or extensive graphics needs, there may be software available that might do these jobs better than what is available for the TI 99/4A. For writers who plan the "Great American Novel", a word processor that can handle several hundred pages, or a thesaurus, or a 100,00 word spelling checker, or an outline program, or indexing software may be essential. The point of all this is a simple one. Before you buy anything, assess your needs. Make a list of what software requirements you need. Then, look around for the software to fill those needs. Only at that point should you consider the hardware -- a new computer. Find the best software available to fill your requirements, then pick the computer that will run it. Not the other way around.

Let me make one other point here. Look very closely at what is available for the TI before you decide it no longer fills the need. Get a catalog from Triton, Tenex, or Tex-Comp. Read Micropendium (P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680) or Smart Programmer [ODH: SP seems to be defunct.] (Bytemaster Computer Services, 171 Mustang St., Sulphur, LA 70663) and, of course, BBS's, information services such as GEnie or CompuServe, or magazines such as Computer Shopper for advertisements and reviews. Check in with a local user group and find out what they know about software availibility. Write JZ and me (and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope) stating your requirements and we will tell you if we know of similar software for the TI. If, after checking all these sources, you are absolutely sure the software is not available for the 99/4A and equally sure that you absolutely need the capability, then (and only then) are you ready to upgrade. The process of making the decision is time-consuming and a lot of work. But that is how it should be.

[ODH: How many of us considered software availablility before purchasing our TI-99/4A? All of us <u>should</u> have!]

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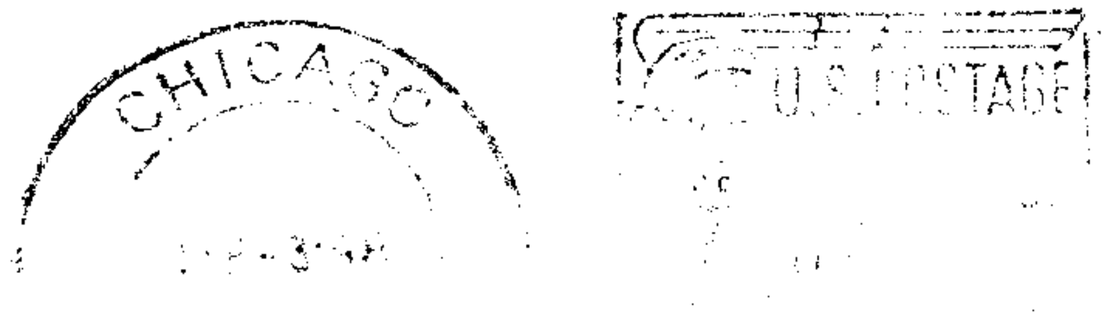

Marks:

First off, I'd like to thank Don Jones. He is the only one who uploaded his article by the August 1st deadline. So, if your newsletter comes to you late, it is due to the waiting time for submissions

Second, something about size. This was supposed to be the super summer issue of the Chicago TImes. The newsletter only becomes as large as you make it. In the past I have always been able to assemble a large issue for the summer. This year most of our regular columnists have decided to do other things.

As I've said in the past, this is your newsletter. You make it what it is. I just assemble it.

I have been doing this newsletter for a long time, probably close to five years. I think it is time for someone else to step in and take over. If anyone else is interested in doing it please let Hank or me know. I will be glad to give whatever help is needed to the next editor.